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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN RE APPLICATION OF :

W. Allan MERZ, et al.

: EXAMINER: RAEVIS, R.

SERIAL NO: 10/717,661 :

FILED: November 21, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2856

FOR: ELECTRIC FURNACE  
BOTTOM PROBE :

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated December 3, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.